

## PSC NEWS Missouri Public Service Commission

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## SCHEDULED WINTER GAS COST FILING APPROVED FOR AMERENUE

Jefferson City (October 31, 2001)---Natural gas customers of Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE in the former service areas of Missouri Power & Light Company, Missouri Edison Company and the Central District of the Missouri Utilities Company (this includes cities such as Columbia, Jefferson City, Mexico and Wentzville) will see **lower natural gas rates** under a scheduled winter season filing approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This decrease, which primarily reflects a reduction in the wholesale cost of natural gas, takes effect on November 1, 2001. The winter season covers the period of November through March.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.6083 per Ccf (per 100 cubic feet of gas). Under the winter filing, the rate will drop to \$0.5658 per Ccf (per 100 cubic feet of gas), a decrease of approximately 4.2 cents per Ccf. The effect on a typical residential heating customer for the winter season is a decrease of \$38 or 5 percent when compared to rates currently in effect.

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its supplier for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

AmerenUE serves approximately 86,200 natural gas customers in the Missouri counties of Audrain, Ralls, Boone, Randolph, Cole, Callaway, Cooper, Howard, Moniteau, Saline, Miller, Morgan, Lincoln, Pike, St. Charles, Warren and Montgomery.